

Support Democracy and Accountability for Our Schools!

Dear Editor:

I am writing to express my strong support for AB45, a bill introduced by Assemblymember Sandré Swanson that returns specific governing powers to the Oakland Unified School District.

It has been 3 1/2 years since the Oakland Unified School District was placed in receivership, disempowering our elected School Board of any of their governing rights. The district has diligently complied with mandated recovery plans, and the independent auditor hired by the State recommends restoring specific functions and responsibilities to the School Board. Sadly, the State Board of Education has not yet granted that recommendation.

Parents, educators, and students in Oakland all desire and deserve a School Board they can hold accountable. Without one, there is no way for participants of the OUSD to have a say in the important educational decisions being made. Making matters worse, there is no time line to gauge the progress necessary for return of community participation and District accountability. Without a timeline, the process of receivership is arbitrary and unfairly opened-ended.

Oakland has elected a new School Board majority. It deserves an opportunity to form a meaningful partnership with parents, teachers, and the community in raising the next generation of citizens.

I support AB45 because our schools should always be our greatest example of democracy.